THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The Installed Electricity Generation Capacity of the country as on 31.3.2005 was 1,20,514 MW against which electrical energy generation during the year 2004-05 was 5,87,416 Million Units. The electrical energy requirement for 2004-05 for the country was 591,373 Million Units, against which the availability was 548,115 Million Units.

(b) The National Electricity Policy finalized by the Government stipulates exploitation of feasible potential of non-conventional energy sources, mainly small hydro, solar, wind and bio-mass to create additional power generation capacity.

According to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the potential for renewable power in the country from wind, solar, small hydro and biomass has been estimated at around 80,000 MW. Against this estimated potential, around 6160 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up as on 31.3.2005.

Attracting foreign investors in power trading

1062. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Ministry record in attracting foreign investors in power trading business has been shocking;

(b) whether Ministry has now adopted a new track and strongly recommended 100% FDI in trading of electricity through automatic approval route;

(c) if so, what other changes are made in this regard; and

(d) to what extent these changes have helped increasing of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) It has been recommended to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that the Sectoral Policy on FDI be further liberalized by including FDI upto 100% in trading of electricity as a distinct activity on automatic approval

route subject to compliance of the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the regulations of the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Electrification of villages

†1063. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the target to provide electricity to every village by 2009; and

(b) the number of private sector companies with whom agreements have been made to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has introduced a new scheme in April, 2005 named "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) — Scheme for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Households Electrification" for electrifying all villages and habitations, providing access to electricity to all households, giving electricity connections to Below Poverty Line families free of charge in five years, by 2009.

(b) So far REC has not entered into agreement with any private sector company to achieve the said target.

Growth of power generation

1064. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation achieved in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the rate of growth of power generation in the country during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the present rate of growth of power generation is sufficient to meet the ever rising need for electricity;

(d) if so, the justifications therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.